

National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims **September 25, 2007**

Background Information

September 25, 2007 will mark the first ***National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims*** to honor the memories of murder victims and recognize the impact of homicide on surviving family members and loved ones.

Year after year, murder extinguishes the hopes and dreams of thousands of Americans. Since the year 2000, more than 113,000 persons have been murdered in the United States. Last year alone, 16,742 individuals lost their lives through acts of human violence.¹ And, for all these murder victims, there are untold numbers of mothers, fathers, children, brothers, sisters, friends, co-workers, and neighbors whose lives are forever altered by the tragedy and horror of suddenly losing a loved one.

After the initial shock of the death and news headlines fade away, family members often struggle alone with their loss and become overwhelmed with the devastating experience of picking up the pieces. The ***National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims*** sends a powerful message to these individuals that we, as a Nation, remember their tragedy, honor their courage, and vow to do whatever we can to help them rebuild their lives.

That is why we also focus during this observance on organizations, such as the National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children and the National Center for Victims of Crime, that provide support, guidance, and counseling for homicide survivors. Families and friends can look to these groups as a source of strength and hope.

The ***National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims*** also reminds us that murder impacts each and every one of us, and every community nationwide. This Day calls us to work diligently to prevent the violence that destroys lives and devastates families.

Established days of remembrance memorialize many dark days in our Nation's history, including the Oklahoma City bombing, the September 11th terrorist attacks, and, most recently, the massacre at Virginia Tech. As solemn and rightfully remembered as these horrific tragedies are, we must also remember that people are murdered every single day. During the ***National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims*** we remember and honor all these victims and their courageous survivors.



*National Organization of
Parents of Murdered Children,
Inc.*



This observance has bipartisan support in the U.S. Congress and follows the unanimous passage of a House of Representatives resolution (H. Res. 223 introduced by Reps. John Shadegg, R-AZ, and Steve Chabot, R-OH), supporting the ***National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims***. A similar resolution (S. Res. 237) has been introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senator John Cornyn, R-TX.

The ***National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims*** will be recognized during a special event on September 25, 2007, at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC. The Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, is supporting this memorial event, which will involve members of Congress, family members of murder victims, and representatives of victim assistance organizations.

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National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children, Inc.

The National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children, Inc., (www.pomc.org) is the only national self-help organization designed solely to offer emotional support and information about surviving the loss of a loved one to murder. With chapters across the United States, POMC provides assistance and support to more than 100,000 survivors each year.

National Center for Victims of Crime

The National Center for Victims of Crime (www.ncvc.org) is the nation's leading resource and advocacy organization dedicated to forging a national commitment to help victims of crime rebuild their lives. The National Center's National Crime Victim Helpline, 1-800-FYI-CALL, offers victims supportive counseling, practical information about crime and victimization, referrals to local community resources, and skilled advocacy in the criminal justice and social service systems.

For more information about the ***National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims***, please contact:

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¹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Uniform Crime Reports* (Washington, DC: Federal Bureau of Investigation); for more information, see <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm>.